

Message Text

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TAGS: XR, PFOR

SUBJECT: BACKGROUNDER BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HELD A BACKGROUNDER WITH THE PRESS TODAY (3/1/75) TO ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN SPEECH. TEXT OF THE BACKGROUND-ER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE - MR. FUNSETH: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE WITH US THIS MORNING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MR. WILLIAM D. ROGERS, WHO WILL ON BACKGROUND DISCUSS AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ADDRESS LATER TODAY IN HOUSTON ENTITLED "THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA - THE NEW OPPORTUNITY." THE GROUND RULES, AS YOU KNOW, OF A BACKGROUNDER ARE ATTRIBUTION SHOULD ONLY BE TO STATE DEPARTMENT OR U.S. OFFICIALS, AND NOT TO MR. ROGERS BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NAME. AND NO RECORDING OF THE BRIEFING. THE TEXT OF THE

ADDRESS, WHICH WE DISTRIBUTED EARLIER AND WHICH I ASSUME ALL OF YOU HAVE, IS EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 3:00 PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME OR 2:00 PM CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME.

THE TEXT IS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY. IN MAKING THE ADDRESS, THE SECRETARY MAY, IN THE INTERESTS OF TIME IN HOUSTON OMIT SOME PASSAGES. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIAL TEXT IS AS YOU HAVE IT BEFORE YOU.

MR. ROGERS: JUST LET ME SAY A WORD OR TWO AT THE OUTSET WITH RESPECT TO THE ADDRESS.

WHY NOW? I THINK BASICALLY THE NOTION WAS THAT THE SECRETARY WILL SHORTLY BE GOING TO LATIN AMERICA; THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE PRESENT STATE OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE POSTPONMENT OF THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING. AND IT WAS THOUGHT THAT A CONSIDERED, DELIBERATE, NON-BALLYHOED, CAREFULLY-STATED EXPRESSION OF OUR MEASUREMENT OF THE STATE OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, AND THE TERMS OF THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FUTURE, WOULD BE HELPFUL. THEY WOULD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, INDICATE OUR CONTINUED AND ABIDING INTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE AND ITS AFFAIRS. AND SECONDLY, I THINK, CAST THE TONE FOR THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP, AS WELL, INCIDENTALLY, AS MY OWN, WHICH STARTS, AS I THINK MOST OF YOU KNOW, A WEEK FROM TOMORROW.

I SHOULD SAY, BY WAY OF TONE, THAT THE SPEECH IS CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED TO BE AS CLEAR ON THAT ISSUE AS IT COULD. IT POINTS OUT ON THE ONE HAND THAT WE PERCEIVE OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT, THAT WE RECOGNIZE NOT ONLY OF COURSE OUR OWN RELATIONSHIPS AND INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND OTHER INTERESTS ELSEWHERE, BUT ALSO THAT LATIN AMERICA ITSELF HAS INCREASING RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE.

IT POINTS OUT THAT, HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA, THE INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS, WE REGARD THAT, NOT ONLY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT IN ITS OWN TERMS, BUT ALSO AS A KIND OF LABORATORY, IF YOU WILL, OR TEST TUBE AS TO WHICH MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND EXPRESSES THE POINT WHICH THE SECRETARY OBVIOUSLY FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT -- THAT IF WE ARE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO A NUMBER OF THE VEXING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING PARTS OF THE WORLD, WE SHOULD EXPECT TO DO SO

FIRST IN THIS HEMISPHERE, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

THE SPEECH GOES ON TO ADDRESS A NUMBER OF THINGS THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO, AND IT ALSO LAYS DOWN SOME SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WE MAY EXPECT FROM LATIN AMERICA.

IT POINTS OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO MOVE

AHEAD ON PANAMA. IT HAS AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO CUBA, WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN. AND IT LAYS DOWN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF MOVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WITH RESPECT TO U.S. POLICY.

ON THE LATIN AMERICAN SIDE, IT DOES POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH WE WELCOME THE NEW INITIATIVES AND STRENGTH WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE, THERE IS A CONCERN HERE WITH RESPECT TO CONFRONTATION; THAT THERE IS AND HAS BEEN MANIFEST ON SOME OCCASIONS A TENDENCY TO FIND UNITY THROUGH OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES; THAT THE BUENOS AIRES POSTPONMENT WAS A CASE IN POINT; THAT WE ESSENTIALLY FEEL THAT THE CHOICES ARE NOT BETWEEN CONFRONTATION AND SUBORDINATION, OR BETWEEN DOMINATION AND INDIFFERENCE. BUT THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP WORK, WE HAVE GOT TO STEER A CAREFUL COURSE BETWEEN THOSE EXTREMES IN WORKING TOGETHER CALMLY ON THE COMMON CHALLENGES IN U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

AND THEN THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO SAY A NUMBER OF THINGS WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMON EFFORT, INCLUDING CONSIDERABLE REPLENISHMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; SOME NEW EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS BY THE LATIN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES; A STRONGER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEARER STATEMENT ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMMODITY EFFORTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND SO FORTH.

THAT BASICALLY IS THE TONE AND TENOR OF THE SPEECH. I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THIS IS NOT A CLARION CALL. THAT THE TONE IS MORE, IF YOU WILL, CELLOS THAN TRUMPETS.

BUT WITH THAT CLASSY CLICHE, I WILL THROW THE FLOOR OPEN TO QUESTIONS.

Q: TWO RELATED QUESTIONS ON PANAMA. IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, HE SAYS THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST OPERATE AND DEFEND THE CANAL FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. AND IN YOUR TESTIMONY ON THE 27TH YOU USED THE EXPRESSION "REASONABLY PROTRACTED." WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, IF THERE

IS ONE. AND WHAT TIME SPAN DOES THAT GENERALLY CONTEMP-
PLATE? THAT'S THE FIRST QUESTION.

A: I CAN'T SEE ANY DIFFERENCE, OR IF THERE WAS ONE, I HAVE
FORGOTTEN WHAT IT IS. NO, THERE ISN'T ANY INTENDED
DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO EXPRESSIONS.

Q: WELL, IN GENERAL TERMS, IS THERE A BALL PARK FIGURE
-- 25 YEARS, 15, 30, 70?

A: WE REALLY HAVE NOT GOTTEN AROUND TO THAT QUESTION,
EITHER INTERNALLY OR IN TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE
ISSUE WITH THE PANAMANIAN. THAT IS AN OPEN ISSUE NOW --
THE TERM.

Q: AND THE OTHER PART IS A MENTION OF CONVERSATIONS WITH
CONGRESS ABOUT ITS EVENTUAL ROLE IN SUCH A TREATY ON BOTH
SIDES. WHAT REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE THAT
EITHER HOUSE WILL APPROVE ANY TREATY WITH PANAMA, GIVEN
CONDITIONS?

A: OH, I'M A TEMPERATE OPTIMIST ON THAT POINT. WE ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TALKING ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH,
AND I SUPPOSE IN A SENSE THIS GOES A LITTLE BIT BEYOND
THAT. BUT I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY, NEVERTHELESS, AS I
SAID TO THE MCGEE SUBCOMMITTEE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY,
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CONGRESS HAS A HEAVY ROLE TO PLAY WITH RESPECT TO THE
APPROVAL OF THE TREATY AND THE TREATY PACKAGE. AND I AM
ABSOLUTELY PERSUADED, AS I SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS,
THAT WHEN THE DETAILS OF THESE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE
KNOWN, THEY WILL COMMEND THEMSELVES AS FAIR AND IN THE
INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO FAIR-MINDED MEN BOTH HERE
AND IN PANAMA.

Q: I ALSO HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. THE FIRST IS WHEN THE
SECRETARY SAID "NEXT MONTH" HE MEANS APRIL, DOESN'T HE?

A: YES.

Q: OKAY. AND THE OTHER ONE IS ON PAGE 8, HE TALKS ABOUT
"THE GROWING TENDENCY OF SOME COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE
IN TACTICS OF CONFRONTATION." DID HE HAVE IN MIND MAINLY
VENEZUELA, WITH AID TO THE COFFEE COUNTRIES AND OTHER
THINGS?

A: NO, THAT CERTAINLY WAS NOT IN HIS MIND. THE VENEZUELAN
COFFEE COOPERATION WITH CENTRAL AMERICANS WAS NOT INCLUD-
ED IN THAT REFERENCE.

Q: COULD YOU BE A BIT MORE SPECIFIC ON THIS POINT -- WHICH COUNTRIES, AND WHAT KIND OF TACTICS HE HAD IN MIND?

A: NO. I THINK IT IS AN OCCASIONAL GENERAL ATTITUDE. I DON'T KNOW THAT IT IS MONOPOLIZED BY ANY SINGLE COUNTRY. IT CERTAINLY ISN'T A GENERAL PRACTICE. IT IS MORE A TEMPTATION TO RESPOND IN CERTAIN INSTANCES DURING CERTAIN MEETINGS OR ON OTHER OCCASIONS WITH THE TACTICS OF CONFRONTATION.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, WHEN THE SECRETARY HERE TALKS ABOUT AN AGREEMENT TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS --

A: PAGE?

Q: PAGE 5.

A: RIGHT.
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Q: THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT THAT THE SANCTIONS OUGHT TO BE LIFTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY, ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT YET GONE THROUGH -- THE RIO TREATY HAS NOT YET BEEN AMENDED-- HE SAYS, "SEVERAL OF MY LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, MIGHT BE APPLIED TO THE EXISTING CUBAN SANCTIONS." AND HE SAYS HE WILL BE CONSULTING.

COULD YOU AMPLIFY THAT A LITTLE, IF POSSIBLE, AND SAY HOW, THIS COULD BE DONE BEFORE THE RIO TREATY IS AMENDED, WHICH WOULD TAKE, I UNDERSTAND, TWO YEARS. AND IS THERE SOME THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE DONE AT THE UPCOMING OAS MEETING?

A: YES. THIS GETS TECHNICAL. BUT NEVERTHELESS, LET ME DO IT, IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

THE SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT THE 1964 RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE NINTH ORGAN OF CONSULTATION WHICH, AS YOU WILL RECALL, IN PARAGRAPH 3, CONTAINED PROVISIONS FOR THE MACHINERY FOR REPEALING THE MEASURES -- I USE THE TECHNICALLY CORRECT LANGUAGE FROM THE JURIDICAL STANDPOINT -- THAT THAT RESOLUTION BE AMENDED BY ANOTHER MEETING OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION, AT A SIXTEENTH. YOU WILL OF COURSE HAVE IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE OAS HAS THE CAPACITY TO CALL MEETINGS OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION ON VERY SHORT NOTICE AND ON WHATEVER TERMS OF FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY, AND AT WHATEVER LEVEL OF ELEVATION OR NON-

ELEVATION IN TERMS OF THE PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IT WANTS
-- TO HAVE A SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTA-
TION, WHICH WOULD THEN ENACT A RESOLUTION, ANOTHER RESOL-
UTION, WHICH ESSENTIALLY AMENDED THE 1964 RESOLUTION TO
PROVIDE THAT THE EXISTING MEASURES IN THE 1964 RESOLUTION
COULD BE LIFTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
EXCUSE ME. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS.

Q: THAT WOULD BE BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE, THE ORIGINAL DECISION.

A: CORRECT. THE VOTE TO AMEND THE '64 RESOLUTION BY THE
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ORGAN OF CONSULTATION, LET'S SAY THE SIXTEENTH, HYPOTHETI-
CALLY, WILL HAVE TO BE BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE.

Q: TO FOLLOW THAT UP -- WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT
SUCH A RESOLUTION?

A: THE U.S. POSITION ON THAT, OBVIOUSLY, IS GOING TO
TURN ON THE SECRETARY'S CONSULTATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA.
BUT I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT IF THERE IS CONSIDER-
ABLE SUPPORT FOR THAT, WE WOULD SUPPORT IT.

Q: THANK YOU.

Q: AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD SEEMED TO INDICATE YESTERDAY THAT
THERE IS A CONSENSUS ON THIS CHANGE FROM TWO-THIRDS TO A
SIMPLE MAJORITY, AND THAT THIS CONSENSUS, HE SAID, COULD
BE APPLIED AT THE OAS CONFERENCE. DOES THAT MEAN THAT
THIS IS THE END OF THE -- THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE
CUBAN TUNNEL, SORT OF? THE NEXT CONFERENCE?

A: YOU WILL EXCUSE ME IF I DON'T EMBRACE THAT PARTICULARLY
HISTORIC EXPRESSION. I THINK MORE REPUTATIONS HAVE BEEN
SACRIFICED ON THIS ALTAR USING THAT EXPRESSION THAN I LIKE
TO THINK ABOUT.

BUT WHAT I HAVE SAID IS CONSISTENT WITH -- AND WHAT THE
SECRETARY IS SAYING HERE IS CONSISTENT WITH -- BUT AN
AMPLIFICATION OF -- WHAT AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD SAID
YESTERDAY AT THE MCGEE HEARINGS. YOU ARE RIGHT.

Q: A LITTLE FURTHER ON THE OAS SANCTIONS QUESTION: I
NOTICE THE SECRETARY SAYS HERE "THE UNITED STATES WILL CON-
SIDER CHANGES IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND IN
ITS REGULATIONS" IF THE OAS SANCTIONS ARE EVENTUALLY
REPEALED. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD
TAKE ANY STEPS WHATSOEVER, HOWEVER SMALL, IN ITS BILATERAL

RELATIONS WITH CUBA BEFORE THAT? FOR INSTANCE, IN TERMS OF PASSPORTS -- WHAT IS IT -- I THINK SIX MONTHS RENEWABLE STIPULATIONS ON U.S. TRAVEL TO CUBA, OR ON TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

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A: RIGHT. WELL, AS THE SECRETARY POINTS OUT HERE, WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN SOME SYMBOLIC STEPS IN THAT RESPECT.

Q: WHAT ARE THEY?

A: THE 250-MILE DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL FOR THE UN-ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

Q: THAT IS ONE.

A: YES. AND THE LITTON LICENSE ALSO, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY. THESE ARE SOME EXAMPLES. NOW, WHAT HE IS ALSO MAKING CLEAR IN HERE, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THOSE SYMBOLIC STEPS, AND THAT, AS HE GOES ON TO SAY, THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IS GOING TO ESSENTIALLY DEPEND ON CUBA'S DEMONSTRATION OF A READINESS TO ASSUME THE MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION.

NOW, BEYOND THAT, IT IS VERY HARD TO SPECULATE WHAT WE MAY DO ON THE BILATERAL AREA.

I MIGHT POINT OUT, HOWEVER, ONE THING, I THINK, THE STATEMENT DOES MAKE QUITE CLEAR. WE FEEL OURSELVES BOUND AS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BY THE EXISTING OAS SANCTIONS. SO IN THAT RESPECT, WITH RESPECT TO THE MATTERS COVERED BY THOSE SANCTIONS, OBVIOUSLY WE ARE NOT GOING TO VIOLATE THOSE SANCTIONS.

Q: BUT THERE MUST BE HALF-A-DOZEN AREAS OF RESTRICTIONS OR LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS THAT HAVE LITTLE OR NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OAS SANCTIONS.

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: WHAT I AM ASKING IS, COULD YOU IMAGINE, IN THE WEEKS, MONTHS, BEFORE THE OAS MEETING, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD UNILATERALLY TAKE ANY MORE OF THESE SYMBOLIC STEPS?

A: I DON'T ANTICIPATE WE WILL TAKE ANY MORE UNILATERAL STEPS. BUT THAT IS JUST A SPECULATIVE PROPOSITION. I REALLY DON'T KNOW. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED
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RIGHT NOW.

Q: TO FOLLOW THAT UP --

A: I SAY THAT TO YOU BY WAY OF BACKGROUND. IS THAT RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION?

Q: YES.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE REGARDED AS ADEQUATE DEMONSTRATION OF CUBAN READINESS TO ASSUME "MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION"?

A: THAT IS ALSO HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. I THINK THERE ARE A

LOT OF THINGS YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT THE CUBANS MIGHT DO IN THIS RESPECT. BUT I THINK TO GO BEYOND THAT AND TRY TO PUT MEAT ON THAT PARTICULAR BONE WOULD BE FAIRLY GRATUITOUS. I THINK WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IT ABOUT WHERE IT IS NOW.

Q: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "REGARD" HERE -- "MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION AND REGARD." CAN YOU AMPLIFY THE "REGARD" A LITTLE BIT?

A: YES. I THINK WHAT THE SECRETARY IS TALKING ABOUT OBVIOUSLY IS NOT MERELY A QUESTION OF CUBA AND U.S. MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS AND REGARD. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE ESSENTIALLY IS CUBA'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. AND I THINK THIS, THEREFORE, REFERS TO THE SENSE OF MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION -- INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATES, NON-INTERVENTION AND SO FORTH.

Q: WHAT DOES THE WORD "REGARD" MEAN? WHY WAS THAT INCLUDED IN THIS VERY CAREFUL PHRASEOLOGY?

A: IT PROBABLY ISN'T TERRIBLY DIFFERENT FROM "THE MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION," EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IMPLIES, YOU KNOW, BEYOND A GRUDGING ADHERENCE TO THE NORMS OF STATE PRACTICE. AS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IT MEANS, I THINK, ESSENTIALLY RESPECT OR A WILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER STATES AND THE CONDUCT

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OF CONVENTIONAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THEM.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN -- FOR INSTANCE, IS THIS A SUGGESTION

FOR A DIMINUTION OF BILLINGSGATE AND NASTY REMARKS ABOUT AMERICAN LEADERS ON THE PART OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT?

A: YES, IT COULD BE THAT. ALTHOUGH I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY, AS I SAID HERE THE OTHER DAY, WE RECOGNIZE NOW THAT THE TONE FROM HAVANA ITSELF HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE.

Q: WHAT IS THE EARLIEST DATE AT WHICH THE OAS COULD SET ITS MEMBER NATIONS FREE TO DEAL WITH CUBA AS THEY CHOOSE?

A: WELL, I THINK TECHNICALLY IT IS POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE, IF THERE WERE A STRONG CONSENSUS BOILING UP RIGHT NOW, THAT IT COULD BE DONE QUITE QUICKLY. IN OTHER WORDS, TECHNICALLY, JURIDICALLY, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONVENE AN ORGAN OF CONSULTATION MEETING ON VERY SHORT NOTICE. I DON'T ANTICIPATE THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. BUT THE RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION IS -- VERY QUICKLY.

Q: REALISTICALLY, THOUGH, THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WOULD BE THE --

A: I WOULD THINK SO, YES. ALTHOUGH AS I SAY, IT IS TECHNICALLY AND JURIDICALLY CONCEIVABLE THAT IT COULD EVEN DO IT BEFORE THAT. I DON'T MEAN TO HOLD THAT OUT AS A HOPE OR A PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES. BUT I AM ANSWERING YOU IN TERMS OF THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE MATTER, RATHER THAN OUR POLICY. YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE?

Q: WELL, WHAT I HAD IN MIND WAS MAY 8, OR WHATEVER THE DATE IS, WHEN THAT MEETING TAKES PLACE, AFTER THE SECRETARY HAS CONSULTED WITH THE VARIOUS LEADERS THAT HE WILL VISIT -- IS IT CONCEIVABLE SHOULD THE VOTE BE IN THE MAJORITY THAT THE MEMBER STATES COULD VERY QUICKLY, IN A VERY SHORT TIME SPAN, BE RELEASED TO DEAL WITH CUBA AS THEY WISHED?

A: YES. YES, TECHNICALLY. BUT IT NEEDS TO BE UNDERLINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE SCHEME THAT HAS BEEN ADVANCED HERE CONTEMPLATES TWO VOTES -- RIGHT?

Q: RIGHT.

A: THE FIRST VOTE IS THE VOTE OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION, WHICH MUST BE BY TWO-THIRDS, WHICH AMENDS THE '64 RESOLUTION. THEN THE SECOND VOTE, BY WHATEVER ORGAN -- PRESUMABLY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL -- THE SECOND VOTE IS A MAJORITY VOTE, RIGHT?

Q: RIGHT.

A: THE FIRST VOTE HAS TO TAKE PLACE, AND THEN THE SECOND VOTE. THEORETICALLY YOU WOULD HAVE THE TWO GROUPS MEETING "BING-BING," LIKE THAT, AND GET IT OVER WITH. ON THE OTHER HAND, MY GUESS IS THAT MOST OF THE COUNTRIES WOULD CONTEMPLATE THAT THE SECOND VOTE WOULD NOT OCCUR DURING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING.

Q: SOME INTERVAL.

A: SOME INTERVAL, YES.

Q: IT WOULD BE A COUNCIL MEETING -- A SPECIAL --

A: PRESUMABLY. JURIDICALLY THERE REALLY ARE THREE OR FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT VARIATIONS ON THIS THEME, AND THE ONE I HAVE LAID OUT FOR YOU IS THE SIMPLEST. BUT IT MAY NOT TAKE THAT FORM EVENTUALLY.

Q: THE SECOND VOTE IS THE VOTE TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS?

A: RIGHT.

Q: THAT COULD BE DONE IN ONE AFTERNOON, IF SOMEBODY CALLS FOR THE SIXTEENTH MEETING --

A: YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT.

Q: WHY THE INTERVAL, THEN?
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A: WELL, THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT BODIES.

Q: IT WAS DONE HERE IN 1970, DURING THE ECUADORIAN FISHING THING.

A: SURE, YOU'RE RIGHT.

Q: ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING A MEETING OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION DURING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

A: "CONTEMPLATING" IS TOO STRONG. THIS IS ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THIS INITIATIVE.

Q: ONE OTHER THING: YOU SAID THAT WHEN YOU COMMENTED ON THIS, DESCRIBED THIS PROPOSAL OR SUGGESTION THAT HAS BEEN MADE, THAT THE U.S. POSITION WOULD TURN ON THE SECRETARY'S

DISCUSSIONS ON HIS TOUR, AND NO DOUBT ON YOURS AS WELL --
BUT DOES THE UNITED STATES VIEW THIS IDEA POSITIVELY IN
GENERAL?

A: YES, I THINK -- THE SECRETARY'S LANGUAGE SAYS THAT HE
IS GOING TO MAKE THE TRIP AND DISCUSS THIS MATTER, THIS
INITIATIVE, WITH AN ATTITUDE OF FINDING A GENERALLY ACCEP-
TABLE SOLUTION.

Q: IS THIS A U.S. INITIATIVE, IN OTHER WORDS?

A: NO, NO, NO, NO. IT IS A LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE.
BUT HE IS GOING TO DISCUSS IT IN LATIN AMERICA DURING HIS
TRIP WITH THE ATTITUDE OF FINDING A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE
SOLUTION.

Q: MR. ROGERS, WHEN YOU SAID BEFORE THE U.S. MAY SUPPORT
-- DID YOU MEAN THE FIRST VOTE OR THE SECOND VOTE?

A: THE FIRST VOTE.

Q: AND IF THERE ARE, LET'S SAY, TWELVE COUNTRIES AGAIN

FAVORING LIFTING THE SANCTIONS, WOULD THEN THE U.S. VOTE--
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A: GOSH, I SPECULATED EVEN ON THE FIRST VOTE. I THINK
TO SPECULATE ON THE SECOND TAKES US A LITTLE BIT FAR.

Q: I'M SORRY -- I GOT LOST A BIT, BEGINNING WITH THE TECH-
NICAL DISCUSSION OF THE JURIDICAL ASPECTS OF IT. WHAT
ABOUT THE ARGUMENT THAT IF IT WOULD REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT
OF THE RIO TREATY, THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY
ALL THE CONGRESSES. IS THAT NO LONGER --

A: OUR JUDGMENT AND THAT OF THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL LAWY-
ERS FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES IS THAT THIS COULD BE DONE BY
AN ORGAN OF CONSULTATION RESOLUTION WHICH AMENDS THE
1964 RESOLUTION. THIS IS A WAY OF ESSENTIALLY ACCOMPLISH-
ING THE RESULT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO, THAT THE
RIO TREATY ITSELF WOULD BE AMENDED. BUT BEFORE WAITING
FOR THE EXTENDED PROCESS OF RATIFICATION OF THE RIO TREA-
TY.

Q: YOU ARE TRYING TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TWO YEARS AND A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

A: THAT'S ESSENTIALLY THE POINT.

Q: CAN WE READ A DIFFERENCE INTO THE LANGUAGE HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF PAGE 6; IF THE SANCTIONS ARE EVENTUALLY REPEALED, THE U.S. WILL CONSIDER CHANGES. SO FAR IT HAS BEEN INDICATED THAT IF SANCTIONS HAD BEEN LIFTED IN QUITO, THE U.S. WOULD NOT HAVE RESUMED RELATIONS, BILATERAL RELATIONS. AND HERE IT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THERE IS SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

A: OH, YES. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, AS IT SAYS -- IN TERMS OF OUR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Q: CAN WE READ A CHANGE INTO THIS SINCE QUITO?

A: I'M SORRY -- I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WE HAD SPOKEN TO THE EFFECT THAT WE WOULD NEVER RESUME BILATERAL RELATIONS.

Q: WELL, ON BACKGROUND IT HAS BEEN SAID VERY OFTEN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE IS NO INTENTION OF ANY RESUMPTION.

A: I GUESS I AM NOT UP-TO-DATE ENOUGH ON WHAT HAS BEEN SAID HERE IN THE PAST TO BE ABLE TO COMPARE THIS TEXT WITH PREVIOUS POSITIONS. BUT THIS DOES OBVIOUSLY OPEN UP THAT POSSIBILITY.

Q: HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE YOU ARE GOING ON YOUR TRIP AND CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE SECRETARY IS GOING ON HIS?

A: I CAN TELL YOU WHERE I AM PROBABLY GOING TO GO. THIS IS BY WAY OF BACKGROUND. THIS IS NOT IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH. BUT I WILL BE GOING IN ALL PROBABILITY TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: PERU, ARGENTINA, CHILE, BRAZIL, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA.

Q: AND THE SECRETARY?

A: THAT HASN'T BEEN SETTLED YET. AND IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE THE SAME COUNTRIES AS I AM GOING TO. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WILL BE SOME DIFFERENCES. MY TRIP IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. I MAY STOP OFF IN ONE OR TWO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE NOW WITH THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OAS, THE SECRETARY MIGHT VISIT MORE COUNTRIES THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TO VISIT?

A: ACTUALLY HIS TRIP HASN'T BEEN SETTLED, AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL EITHER ADD OR SUBTRACT COUNTRIES.

Q: THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONTACTS BETWEEN UNITED STATES OFFICIALS AND CUBAN OFFICIALS, AT ANY LEVEL. AND I WOULD LIKE JUST FOR THE RECORD TO RAISE THIS QUESTION AGAIN -- WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY SOUNDINGS AT ANY LEVEL IN RECENT WEEKS OR MONTHS?

A: WELL, WE ARE IN CONTACT, AS YOU KNOW, WITH CUBA THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE SURROGATE EMBASSIES; THE CZECHS HERE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CUBANS AND THE SWISS FOR THE UNITED STATES IN HAVANA.

Q: BUT THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND THAT.

A: NO.

Q: WELL, DIDN'T TAPLEY BENNETT SEE ALARCRON IN NEW YORK TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE VISITING --

A: I DON'T THINK HE SAW HIM, JERRY. I MAY BE WRONG ABOUT THAT. I DON'T THINK HE HAS SEEN HIM DIRECTLY.

Q: DO THEY NEVER CONVERSE TOGETHER?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. NOT ON ANY MATTERS OF GREAT SUBSTANCE, OF COURSE.

Q: I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION, PERHAPS A METAPHYSICAL ONE.

A: OH-OH -- WHEN THE TIMES GETS INTO METAPHYSICS WE ARE IN...GO AHEAD.

Q: AW, FORGET IT. (LAUGHTER)

NO, SERIOUSLY. I WANT TO ASK ABOUT THIS PHRASE "THE NEW OPPORTUNITY." LAST YEAR WE HAD "THE NEW DIALOGUE."

A: DON'T MAKE THAT A SLOGAN.

Q: I DIDN'T MAKE IT. IT IS SITTING HERE ON PAGE 1. WHAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY AND WHAT IS NEW ABOUT IT?

A: WELL, I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU A STRAIGHT ANSWER. BUT THE POINT, I THINK, ESSENTIALLY OF THE ANSWER IS THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO BALLYHOO THIS AS A NEW ERA IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A DELIBERATIVE SPEECH, A CAREFULLY CONSIDERED SPEECH. IT IS INTENDED TO

TREAT THESE MATTERS WITHOUT EXCESSIVE FLAMBOYANCE.

WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT THE NEW OPPORTUNITY, OBVIOUSLY HE IS
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TALKING ABOUT WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. YOU KNOW -- WE ARE
AT A MOMENT, BUT NOT A MOMENT OF WILD EUPHORIA. THERE
HAVE BEEN, SOME DIRE THINGS SAID ABOUT THE STATE OF U.S.-
LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. THIS IS INTENDED TO BE NEITHER
WILDLY EUPHORIC OR A WILDLY PESSIMISTIC STATEMENT. HE IS
SAYING THAT WE DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE AHEAD FROM
HERE.

Q: YOU MEAN FROM THE COLLAPSE OF THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING,
FOR INSTANCE?

A: RIGHT. I DON'T EMBRACE THE TERM "COLLAPSE," BUT
THE POSTPONEMENT.

Q: WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE HICKENLOOPER AND THE
GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS, AND THEN FURTHER ON THERE IS A COM-
MITMENT -- YOU ARE PREPARED TO SEEK THE MODIFICATION OF
THIS LEGISLATION. IS THIS DONE AS A RESULT OF CONSULTA-
TIONS ON THE HILL? DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSURANCES OR CONFI-
DENCE AT ALL THAT YOU CAN DELIVER ON THIS?

A: NO -- I SHOULD MAKE CLEAR WHAT THIS SAYS IS WE ARE PRE-
PARED TO GO AHEAD AND SUGGEST SOME CHANGES -- IF WE CAN
WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS THAT WILL GIVE

US THE CAPACITY TO GO TO CONGRESS AND SAY "HERE, LOOK, WE
HAVE SOME OTHER MACHINERY, OTHER IDEAS, NEW ARRANGEMENTS
WHICH GIVE US ESSENTIALLY AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE OF
ASSURANCE FOR FAIR TREATMENT FOR INVESTORS, SO THEREFORE
HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ ARE NO LONGER ESSENTIAL, OR AS
ESSENTIAL AS YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE IN THE PAST."

Q: HAVE THE WORKING GROUPS DONE ANYTHING SINCE MEXICO?

A: OH, YES. THE WORKING GROUP MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS.

Q: WHAT FORM WOULD THOSE ASSURANCES TAKE?

A: WELL, THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY SPELLED OUT IN HERE IN
GENERAL TERMS. BUT SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE TALKED
ABOUT IN THE WORKING GROUPS, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN
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OVERALL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, OF THE TERMS OF TRANS-NATIONAL ENTERPRISE INVOLVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, INVOLVE SUCH THINGS, AS GENERAL STATEMENTS OF FAIR TREATMENT COUPLED WITH MACHINERY PERHAPS FOR VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION TO FACT-FINDING PROCEDURES, THINGS OF THAT SORT. THERE ARE A WIDE VARIETY OF PROPOSALS.

Q: ISN'T THAT WHAT WAS TURNED DOWN IN MEXICO LAST YEAR-- KISSINGER SUGGESTION THAT WAS TURNED DOWN PRETTY SHARPLY BY THE --

A: NO -- ACTUALLY SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NOW ARE CONSIDERABLE VARIATIONS ON THAT. I THINK WE HAVE BEEN MAKING SOME PROGRESS ON THAT.

Q: THE SECRETARY MENTIONS ONLY THE TRANSNATIONAL. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE OTHER WORKING GROUP ON THE DIALOGUE.

A: YOU ARE RIGHT. AND THIS IS --

Q: TO WHICH THE U.S. REFUSED TO COME.

A: NO. DON'T READ TOO MUCH INTO THAT. ACTUALLY, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE FACT THAT WE MENTION THAT THE TRANS-NATIONAL WORKING GROUP OUGHT TO RESUME DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP RESUMING. IN FACT, WE ARE IN FAVOR OF BOTH OF THEM RESUMING. BUT IN TERMS OF THE SCHEMATA OF THE SPEECH, IT JUST HAPPENED THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT TRANS-NATIONALS, AND THAT IS WHY HE EMPHASIZED HERE THE DESIRABILITY OF RESUMING THE WORK OF THAT GROUP.

Q: ABOUT THE ELIMINATION OF IMPORT TARIFFS, ON PAGE 6 --

THIS ELIMINATION WILL BE MADE WITH AN ELIMINATION OF THE QUANTITIES OF IMPORTATION, OR IT WILL TAKE A LIMIT? IN THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH -- "THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES TO ELIMINATE ALL IMPORT TARIFFS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES..."

A: RIGHT.

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Q: THIS ELIMINATION OF THE IMPORT TARIFFS WILL BE MADE WITHOUT QUANTITIES OR --

A: YES. THIS WILL BE AN ELIMINATION OF ALL TARIFFS -- IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WILL BE ZERO TARIFF ON THE ELIGIBLE

ITEMS FROM THE ELIGIBLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Q: WILL YOU OR ARE YOU LOBBYING FOR THE BENTSEN-KENNEDY AMENDMENT, ETC., OR WILL YOU PUSH IT IN THE TRADE ACT?

A: WHAT WE HAVE SAID HERE IS THAT WE ARE -- THAT THE SECRETARY IS IN FAVOR OF THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENTS. I MIGHT SAY THAT, AGAIN, HERE, THE FACT OF THE MATTER, OF COURSE, AS YOU KNOW IS THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KENNEDY, AND THE FACT THAT SENATOR KENNEDY IS NOT MENTIONED HERE SHOULD NOT BE READ AS SIGNIFYING ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT SENATOR KENNEDY IS NOT THE SENATOR FROM TEXAS. BUT THE TWO ARE DIFFERENT. AND WE HAVEN'T -- ESSENTIALLY THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT MADE UP ITS MIND AS TO WHICH OF THOSE IS BETTER AND WHICH HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

Q: THE BILLION DOLLARS THAT YOU REFER TO HERE, CAN YOU PUT THAT IN A LITTLE MORE CONTEXT FOR US -- "WILL BENEFIT NEARLY A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS." THAT IS WHAT PERCENTAGE, OR WHAT PART OF THE TOTAL? HOW MUCH COMES IN NOW, AND HOW MUCH WILL THIS MEAN IN THE FUTURE?

A: THE PERCENTAGE VARIES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY. AND I DON'T THINK I CAN GIVE YOU A PERCENTAGE FIGURE IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES COMPARED TO THIS BILLION DOLLARS WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY-FREE IMPORT. THAT COULD BE EASILY DONE BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE FIGURE OF TOTAL LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES IN MY MIND.

Q: ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC REPORT, INCLUDING OIL, IT WAS 18 BILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR.

A: INCLUDING OIL. BUT IN TERMS OF MANUFACTURES, THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOOMS EVER SO MUCH LARGER.

Q: 15 BILLION DOLLARS.

A: WE CAN GET THE FIGURE FOR YOU. I'M SORRY I JUST DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE IT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE. IN TERMS OF MANUFACTURES, IT IS VERY MUCH LARGER. IN TERMS OF MANUFACTURES FROM SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS MEXICO, IT IS A VERY LARGE PERCENTAGE WHICH ARE GOING TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY.

Q: YOU SAID NO QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS.

A: ON PREFERENCE GOODS.

Q: WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE 25 MILLION DOLLARS RESTRICTION
WRITTEN INTO THE TRADE BILL?

A: RIGHT.

Q: THAT IS ONE RESTRICTION?

A: NO, IT IS NOT A QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION. WHAT HE IS
TALKING ABOUT IS DO YOU GIVE THEM ZERO FREE ENTRY BUT SAY
THEY CAN ONLY IMPORT UP TO X NUMBER OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS,
AND THEN NO MORE IMPORTS.

Q: BUT ABOVE 25 MILLION DOLLARS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY
THE DUTY?

A: CORRECT.

Q: WHAT INDICATIONS HAVE YOU HAD FROM THE CUBANS THAT
THEY ARE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH WASHING-
TON?

A: OH, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY -- YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT THE
CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING ON THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANYTHING SPECIFICALLY SINCE THE EXTENSION
OF THE TRAVEL LIMITATIONS ON THE UN DIPLOMATS?
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A: NO, I DON'T SIGHT ANY PARTICULAR STATEMENT BY CUBAN
OFFICIALS SINCE THE EXTENSION OF TRAVEL LIMITATIONS. BUT
WE HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY ATTENTIVE TO WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN
SAYING IN GENERAL ABOUT THE U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS AND ABOUT
ESSENTIALLY THEIR ATTITUDE ABOUT BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND
SECRETARY KISSINGER.

Q: ON PAGE 11 THERE IS A REFERENCE TO LOOKING AT THE
QUESTION OF HOW COMMODITY ISSUES SHOULD BE HANDLED. IS

THIS A THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT OR DO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE
SOME IDEAS ON HOW WE MIGHT APPROACH THE PROBLEM?

A: IT IS MORE THAN A THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT. I THINK OUR
POSITION HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD ON THIS ISSUE. I THINK
THAT TRADE REACTION IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE FACT THAT IN
LATIN AMERICA IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAS A STONEWALL ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO COMMODI-

TIES. WE DO HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS. TO GET INTO THE MECHANICS OF IT -- IT GETS INTO A HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX SUBJECT. BUT WE ARE GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO TALK ABOUT THIS ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL.

Q: ARE YOU PROPOSING MORE MACHINERY OR INSTITUTIONS OR HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ATTACK IT? WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS ON HOW TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM?

A: IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WITH CONSULTATION. WE HAVE GOT TO TALK TO THE LATIN AMERICANS, TO ESSENTIALLY FIND OUT REALLY WHERE THEY WANT TO GO WITH RESPECT TO A VARIETY OF COMMODITIES. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, FOR EXAMPLE, ON BANANAS, ON MINERALS, AND SO FORTH -- A LOT OF DISCUSSION IN LATIN AMERICA ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE COMMODITY PRICING AND COMMODITY SUPPLY WITH- IN LATIN AMERICA. WE WANT TO TALK WITH THEM. WE WANT TO EXPLAIN OUR ATTITUDE, WHICH IS MORE RECEPTIVE AND UNDER- STANDING THEN THEY PRESENTLY THINK WITH RESPECT TO COMMODITY ISSUES. AND WE WANT TO SEE IF THERE ISN'T SOME WAY WE CAN WORK OUT SOMETHING, COMMODITY BY COMMODITY--AND OBVIOUSLY THE MACHINERY WILL HAVE TO DIFFER FROM ONE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OTHER -- WHICH RECOGNIZES TWO THINGS. ON THE ONE HAND, THE INTERESTS OF THE PRODUCERS, WHICH ARE LEGITIMATE, IN TERMS OF EXCESSIVELY SWINGS OF PRICES, AND THE INTER- ESTS OF CONSUMERS, IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO SUPPLY.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON THIS, I MIGHT SAY, ARE PRETTY WELL LAID OUT IN THE OAS CHARTER, ARTICLE 37(B). AND WHAT WE WOULD HAVE IN MIND WAS SEEING WHETHER OR NOT THE 37(B) PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER CAN BE EFFECTIVELY IMPLE- MENTED WITH RESPECT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMODITIES.

Q: LET ME TRY THE QUESTION ANOTHER WAY, ABOUT CUBA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESTORATION OF NORMALITY -- NOT WHAT THE CUBANS HAVE BEEN SAYING, BUT WHAT IS YOUR JUDGMENT OF THEIR ATTITUDE FROM WHAT THEY HAVE SAID?

A: I THINK IT IS PROBABLY AS FRUITLESS OR AT LEAST RISKY TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONAL ATTITUDE OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AS IT IS TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE

INSTITUTIONAL ATTITUDE OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

Q: YES. BUT YOU MUST HAVE AN OPINION. ARE THEY INTEREST- ED OR NOT?

A: I WOULDN'T CARRY THE OPINION ANY FURTHER THAN WHAT

PREMIER CASTRO HAS BEEN SAYING.

Q: COULD YOU SAY, IN THESE CONSULTATIONS CARRIED ON THROUGH THE CZECHS HERE AND THE SWISS THERE, HAVE THEY GONE BEYOND MERE HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS?

A: NO.

Q: IF I MAY, LET ME RAISE IT YET ANOTHER WAY. IF THE CUBANS HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING, OR IF YOU JUDGE THAT THEY ARE NOT CHANGING, AREN'T THE STEPS THAT YOU HAVE OUTLINED HERE, AND THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, ISN'T THAT A TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT IN TIME AND IN WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THEORETICAL EXERCISES, IF THERE IS NO CHANGE EVIDENT IN CUBA?

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A: NO -- DID I GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE EVIDENT IN CUBA? I DIDN'T THINK THAT I DID THAT. LET ME CITE YOU SEVERAL THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID. I THINK IF YOU GO BACK AND LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE RECORD, YOU WILL SEE SEVERAL THINGS. ONE -- PREMIER CASTRO'S OWN SEVERAL STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO HIS ATTITUDE ABOUT THE PRESENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION. TWO -- CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ'S INTERVIEW IN LE MONDE, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSLY SAID "WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH THIS MAY BE DONE. WE WILL LOOK AT THE QUESTION IN TERMS OF STEP-BY-STEP ELIMINATION OF THE EMBARGO." THINGS OF THAT SORT.

THE PUBLIC RECORD WITH RESPECT TO THE STATEMENTS OF HIGH CUBAN OFFICIALS, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS VERY INTERESTING IN TERMS OF WHAT CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED, I THINK, AS A MUCH MORE AMELIORATIVE ATTITUDE ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND, INDEED, RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE.

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ HAS SAID PUBLICLY, IF I RECALL THE WORDS PRECISELY -- AND IF YOU WANT TO PURSUE THIS, WE WOULD WANT TO CHECK THE RECORD CAREFULLY, BUT I THINK THIS IS QUITE CLOSE TO IT -- "WE DO NOT THINK THAT THERE ARE NOW CONDITIONS -- REVOLUTIONARY CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH EXISTED IN CUBA IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA." NOW, THIS SEEMS TO ME HARDLY THE CUBAN

ATTITUDE AND CUBAN POSTURE OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

Q: BUT HOW DO YOU SQUARE ALL THAT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WEDNESDAY IN FLORIDA THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN

THE TONE AND THE POSTURE OF CUBA?

A: NO -- NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY OF CUBA WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE, BASED ON --

A: IN TERMS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS.
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Q: IS IT POSSIBLE, BASED ON THE SECRETARY'S CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS DURING THIS UPCOMING TRIP, THAT WE WILL CHANGE OUR POSITION OF ABSTAINING ON THE QUESTION OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND VOTE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO? HOW ARE WE DOING TO VOTE, IN OTHER WORDS?

A: WELL, AS I INDICATED IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION ALONG THE SAME LINE, IT IS GOING TO DEPEND ON WHAT THE CONSULTATIONS ARE. BUT THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS ON THIS MATTER.

Q: YOU SPOKE, I THINK, IN YOUR LAST BACKGROUNDER HERE ABOUT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL OF RELATIONS WHICH ARE A BIT TROUBLED AT THE MOMENT, AND THE BILATERAL LEVEL, WHICH IS PRETTY GOOD, WITH LATIN AMERICA. COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE OAS AS A FORUM NOW AND AS AN INSTITUTION FROM THE UNITED STATES POINT OF VIEW, AS A RESULT OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE HEMISPHERE DIALOGUE.

A: THE TIMES IS GETTING AWFULLY PHILOSOPHICAL TODAY. THIS TAKES US A LITTLE BIT BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, BUT I WILL SAY A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THAT.

I THINK THE OAS OBVIOUSLY IS AT A KIND OF -- "CROSSROADS" IS MUCH TOO DRAMATIC FOR THE PRESENT CIVILIZED MANNER OF DISCOURSE. BUT IN ANY EVENT, IT IS AT A FAIRLY DECISIVE PERIOD. IT IS GOING TO HAVE A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL. I THINK THIS OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ITSELF IS GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT ONE IN TERMS OF SETTING THE TONE FOR THE FUTURE. WE ARE GOING TO FIND OUT A LOT ABOUT THE OAS AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING.

I MIGHT SAY THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF SENTIMENT WITHIN THE OAS, I AM DELIGHTED TO SAY, TO REDUCE THE RHETORICAL ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, DOWN-PLAY THE SPEECHES, AND HAVE QUIET AND PERHAPS OFF-THE-RECORD MEET-

INGS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. WE THINK THAT THAT KIND OF PRACTICAL, CANDID, ONE-TO-ONE RELATIONSHIP IN THE CONTEXT

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN
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PLACE OF SOME OF THE RHETORICAL EXCURSIONS WHICH HAVE
MARKED THE DELIBERATIONS OF THAT DELIBERATIVE BODY IN THE
PAST.

Q: WOULD THAT THEN REPLACE THE DIALOGUE?

A: NOT NECESSARILY. BUT YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT, THAT IT
WOULD BE QUITE SIMILAR TO THE FORMAT OF THE DIALOGUE.

Q: BECAUSE YESTERDAY AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD SAID SOMETHING
TO CONGRESS. HE SAID HE HOPED THE SPIRIT OF THE DIALOGUE
WOULD PERMEATE THE OAS. AND IT ALMOST SOUNDED AS IF THE
U.S. HAD GIVEN UP ON THIS OTHER FORM OF DIALOGUE.

A: WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE GIVING UP. ESSENTIALLY IT MIGHT
EVEN CONCEIVABLY BE THAT -- AND THIS OCCURRED AT
TLATOLOLCO, AND THEN WASHINGTON AND ATLANTA -- THE
MINISTERS COULD MEET DIRECTLY, INFORMALLY, WITHOUT MAKING
PUBLIC SPEECHES FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

Q: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. UNQUOTE. END TEXT OF BACKGROUND.
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